AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please amend claim 19 as follows:

1-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method for delivering a polynucleotide to the cytoplasm of a cell comprising:

a) condensing said polynucleotide with a polycation to form a binary complex;

b) associating said binary complex with a negatively charged reversibly inhibited membrane active polymer to form a ternary complex wherein said reversibly inhibited membrane active polymer comprises a membrane active polyamine capable of causing liposome leakage to which a plurality of disubstituted maleic anhydride derivatives are reversibly linked via pH labile bonds and wherein linkage of the disubstituted maleic anhydride derivatives to the polymer inhibits liposome leakage activity of the membrane active polyamine and cleavage of the disubstituted maleic anhydride derivatives from the reversibly inhibited membrane active polymer restores liposome leakage activity of the membrane active polyamine ; and,

c) delivering said ternary complex to said cell wherein said ternary complex is endocytosed.

20-21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said polycation is crosslinked to said reversibly inhibited membrane active polymer via a pH-labile bond.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said membrane active polyamine disrupts an endocytic membrane thereby providing delivery of said polynucleotide the cytoplasm of said cell.

24-26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said disubstituted maleic anhydride derivatives are derived from reaction of said membrane active polymer with disubstituted maleic anhydrides selected from the group consisting of: carboxydimethylmaleic anhydride, carboxydimethylmaleic anhydride-thioester, and carboxydimethylmaleic anhydride-polyethylene glycol.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein said inhibitors are cleaved from said polyamine in an endosome.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said membrane active polymer has a molecular weight greater than 10,000 Daltons.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said ternary complex consists of a nanoparticle.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said nanoparticle consists of a salt stable nanoparticle.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein said complex has a net negative charge.